

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAVANA 00883 062201Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 H-01 AID-05
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1565
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C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0883

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAGR CU
SUBJ: CUBANS INVITE US AGRICULTURAL RESEARCHER TO VISIT CUBA

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS (MINREX) ACTING DIRECTOR OF NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS ZAMORA, APRIL 5, DELIVERED AIDE-MEMOIRE NUMBER 584 DATED APRIL 5 TO USINT OFFICER. AIDE-MEMOIRE RELAYS INVITATION FROM CUBAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE TO MR. GLENN W. BURTON, GENETIC RESEARCHER OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TO COME TO CUBA WITH HIS WIFE. CUBAN SIDE INDICATES THAT IT WILL COVER ALL EXPENSES OF MR. AND MRS. BURTON'S STAY IN CUBA. (TRANSPORTATION IS NOT MENTIONED HOWEVER.) ZAMORA, WHILE NOT SURE, STATED THAT CUBANS MAY NOT HAVE HAD ANY PRIOR CONTACT WITH BURTON.

2. COMMENT:IF IT IS CONVENIENT FOR THE BURTONS AND THE USDA, THIS INVITATION MIGHT OFFER USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO DANGLE THE TEMPTING POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION IN FRONT OF THE CUBANS IN A LOW-KEY MANNER, WITHOUT HAVING TO COMMIT OURSELVES NOW TO ONGOING, BROADER PROGRAM OF COOPERATION - WHICH IN ANY EVENT, MIGHT RUN COUNTER TO SPIRIT OF CURRENT LEGISLATION DENYING DEVELOPMENT FINANCING TO CUBAN AGRICULTURE. PRESUMING THAT BURTON'S TRIP COULD BE CHARACTERIZED AS AN INFORMATION-GATHERING
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EXPEDITION AND IF HIS EXPERTISE LIES PRIMARILY IN ANIMAL BREEDING AREA (THAT IS, OUTSIDE SENSITIVE SUGAR AND CITRUS SECTORS) ANY NEGATIVE REACTION TO VISIT IN US PRESUMABLY WOULD BE MINIMIZED. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT BOTH FIDEL CASTRO AND HIS BROTHER RAMON HAVE A LONGSTANDING INTEREST IN GENETIC BREEDING OF ANIMALS AND MIGHT VERY WELL BE INVOLVED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH BURTON.

3. REQUEST DEPARTMEHT'S GUIDANCE ON RESPONSE TO GOC INVITATION.
LANE

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Message Attributes

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